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EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT

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2174

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4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/738,329

Applicant(s)

BEATON ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,365).

As to claim 1, Tang teaches a Graphical User Interface (GUI) adapted to facilitate collaboration between a team member and other members of a geographically dispersed team, the GUI comprising:

means for accessing respective preference and presence information concerning each member of the team maintained by a persistent collaborative services suite of the team (col. 3 lines 32-41, col. 4 lines 14-28, and fig. 3);

a first graphical display including a representation of the preference and presence information respecting each of the other members of the team (figs. 1A-8); and

means for initiating a selected one of a plurality of types of communications (col. 4 lines 14-28).

As to claim 2, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 1, wherein the types of communications comprise: 1-way messaging (error message, col. 14 lines 46-52); 2-way messaging; voice; and multi-media (col. 13 lines 1-12, col. 14 line 18).

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As to claim 3, Tang inherently teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 2, wherein 1-way messaging comprises one or more of paging because Tang's operating environment uses video, audio, microphone, email, and the like in communications between team members (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and figs. 3, 5-6, and 8); therefore, users can setup the email to page them whenever new messages or important news arrive to their personal devices such as: PDAs, cellular phones, pagers, or the like.

As to claim 4, Tang teaches GUI as claimed in claim 2, wherein 2-way messaging comprises instant messaging (error message, col. 14 lines 46-50, reflect status, col. 5 lines 59-61).

As to claim 5, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 2, wherein multi-media communications comprises one or more of: document sharing; application sharing (col. 3 lines 59-67); 1-way video conferencing; and 2-way video conferencing (video conference, col. 8 lines 1-28).

As to claim 6, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaborative services suite to update at least the preference information respecting the team member (col. 14 lines 59-67, col. 15 lines 1-13, update the chat room, col. 11 lines 37-52).

As to claim 7, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 6, wherein the preference information comprises information identifying a communications device selected by the team member as a preferred communications device for participation in the respective one of the plurality of types of communications (col. 3 lines 59-67, and figs. 3, 5, and 7).

As to claim 8, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 6, wherein the preference information comprises an indication that the team member does not wish to participate in the respective one of the plurality of types of communications (Do Not Disturb, figs. 1A, and 2).

As to claim 9, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 1, wherein an instance of the GUI is implemented for each member of the team, and the representation of the preference and presence information respecting each member of the team is substantially identical in each instance of the GUI (user of the same, col. 14 lines 40-53).

As to claim 10, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preference and presence information is indicative of an ability of each team member to participate in each one of the plurality of types of communications (fig. 3, and 7-8).

As to claim 11, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first graphical display comprises one or more icons representing the preference and presence information concerning a respective team member (icon, col. 5 lines 20-28 and figs. 1A-5).

As to claim 12, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 11, wherein each icon is a composite icon comprising one or more of:

a communications type icon element representing a respective one of the plurality of types of communications (fig. 3); and

a presence icon element representing a current activity of the respective team member (figs. 7-8).

As to claim 13, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 12, wherein the communications type icon element is further representative of preference information indicative of preferences of

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the respective team member for participation in the respective one of the plurality of types of communications (figs. 3, and 7-8).

As to claim 14, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 13, wherein the preference information is defined by the respective team member (col. 10 lines 51-67 and fig. 9).

As to claim 15, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 14, wherein the preference information comprises information identifying a communications device selected by the respective team member as a preferred communications device for participation in the respective one of the plurality of types of communications (col. 3 lines 59-67, and figs. 3, 5, and 7).

As to claim 16, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 14, wherein the preference information comprises an indication that the respective team member does not wish to participate in the respective one of the plurality of types of communications (Do Not Disturb, figs. 1A, and 2).

As to claim 17, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 12, wherein the presence icon element is selected on a basis of presence information indicative of the activity of the respective team member (fig. 1A, 2, and 7).

As to claim 18, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 17, wherein the presence information is automatically acquired by the persistent collaborative services suite (col. 6 lines 51-62).

As to claim 19, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 18, wherein the persistent collaborative services suite is adapted to acquire the presence information by detecting an operational status of a communications device selected by the respective team member as a

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preferred communications device for participation in the respective one of the plurality of types of communications (figs. 1A-B, 3, and 7-8).

As to claim 20, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 19, wherein the operational status comprises one of:

an In-Use status indicating that the preferred communications device has been used within a first predetermined period (col. 5 lines 59-62 and fig. 1A, 2, and 7);

an Idle status indicating that the preferred communications device has not been used within a second predetermined period (col. 5 lines 64-67 and figs. 1A, 2, and 7); and

an inaccessible status indicating that the collaborative services suite is unable to detect the operational status of the preferred communications device (Out of Office of fig. 2).

As to claim 21, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means for initiating a selected one of the plurality of types of communications is responsive to selection of an icon to initiate the respective type of communications represented by the communications type icon element (figs. 1B, 3, and 7).

As to claim 22, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a second graphical display including session information respecting one or more active communications sessions between members of the team (fig. 8).

As to claim 23, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 22, wherein the session information comprises any one or more of:

a session type of the active communications session (fig. 9); and

a participant list identifying each team member participating in the active communications session (figs. 3, 8-9).

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As to claim 24, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 23, wherein the session type of the active communications sessions comprises any one of: text, voice and multi-media (col. 4 lines 14-28).

As to claim 25, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 23, wherein the second graphical display comprises a session icon representing the session type of the active communications session (figs. 7-8).

As to claim 26, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 25, wherein the session icon is selected from a library of icons comprising at least one icon for each of text, voice and multimedia (fig. 3).

As to claim 27, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 25, wherein the GUI is adapted to enable the team member to join an active communications session using the respective session icon (Join 46 of fig. 9).

As to claim 28, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 1, wherein the GUI further comprises a third graphical display including one or more team bulletins (fig. 6).

As to claim 29, Tang inherently teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 28, wherein the third graphical display comprises any one or more of: information concerning each team bulletin;

means enabling the team member to edit a team bulletin; and means enabling the team member to post a new team bulletin because Tang's Messages of the Day are displayed to all team members must be updated (posted or edited) by anyone of the team members (col. 8 lines 52-57) or whoever in charge of the activity (element 26 of fig. 5-7).



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As to claim 30, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 29, wherein further comprising means for forwarding each one of posted and edited team bulletins to the collaborative services suite (col. 8 lines 52-57).

As to claim 31, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 1, wherein the GUI further comprises a fourth graphical display representing a communications session between the team member and one or more other parties to the communications session (figs. 5 and 8).

As to claim 32, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 31, wherein the one or more other parties to the communications session comprises at least one other member of the team (figs. 1A and 4).

As to claim 33, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 31, wherein the one or more other parties to the communications session comprises at least one person who is not a member of the team (Based on identification information (col. 11 lines 38-45) of any team member who is displayed on Info screen 29 of fig. 1B, other members can easily define that displayed member is belong or not to the team).

As to claim 34, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 31, wherein the communications session comprises an exchange of any one or more of: text, voice and multi-media data content between the parties to the communications session (chat room, col. 9 lines 38-55).

As to claim 35, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 31, wherein the fourth graphical display comprises session information comprising any one or more of:

a session identifier; text information of a session topic; information identifying an initiating team member who initiated the communications session; information concerning each party to the communications session; a session start time; text information of at least one session

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note; information concerning a document shared between parties in the communications session (figs. 3, 5-9).

As to claim 36, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 35, wherein the session topic is defined by an initiating team member who initiated the communications session (it can be rejected under similar rationale as claim 33 above).

As to claim 37, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 35, wherein the GUI is adapted to enable the user to change the text information of at least one session note during the communications session (chat room, col. 9 lines 38-55).

As to claim 38, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 37, wherein GUI is adapted to enable the user to change the text information of at least one session note by either one or both of: editing an existing session note and adding a new session note (it can be rejected under similar rationale as claim 33 above).

As to claim 39, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 37, wherein a change in the text information of at least one session note effected by the user is replicated to each of the parties to the communications session (col. 8 lines 52-57).

As to claim 40, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 35, wherein the information identifying a shared document comprises any one or more of:

a document ID identifying the shared document (The documents and files (col. 3 lines 59-67 and col. 4 lines 1-14) must be provided file names and locations where they are stored in order to retrieve for sending, editing, viewing, etc.); an address identifying a location of the shared document; and a web-link enabling the user to access the shared document through a network.

As to claim 41, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 35, wherein the communications session comprises an exchange of multi-media data content, and the session information further comprises information concerning real-time events exchanged during the communications session (fig. 6).

As to claim 42, Tang inherently teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 31, wherein the GUI is adapted to enable the user to invite a new party to join the communications session because Tang's operating environment uses video, audio, microphone, email, and the like in communications between team members (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and figs. 3, 5-6, and 8); therefore, users can setup the email to send new messages or important news arrive to all other teams (or new teams) throughout a Network.

As to claims 43-45, they can be rejected under similar rationale as claim 42 above.

As to claim 46, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 44, wherein the contact information concerning the new party is contained in a contact directory accessible by the team member (chat room directory, col. 10 lines 51-67 and fig. 9).

As to claim 47, Tang teaches a GUI as claimed in claim 46, wherein the contact directory comprises any one or more of:

a personal contact directory maintained by the team member; an enterprise directory maintained by an enterprise; and a public directory (col. 10 lines 51-67 and fig. 9).

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Baumgartner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,195,086) teach communications, team members, password, and identification (cols. 2-23 and figs. 1-25).

Hayden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,953,159) teach interaction, members, conference, and icons (cols. 2-36 and figs. 1-37).

Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,539) teach conference, interaction, members, communications, and icons (cols. 2-31 and figs. 2A-42).

Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,237,025) teach audio/video conference, team members, icons, email, and messages (cols. 4-41 and figs. 2A-42).

Riddle (U.S. Patent No. 5,857,189) teaches events, exchange information, members, and different communication devices (cols. 1-16 and figs. 1-7).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 703-305-5753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Truc T. Chuong  
July 28, 2003

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